

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

and

CORNELL UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'LATHCO' FLATPEA

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station; and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of Lathco flatpea (Lathyrus sylvestris L.). It was developed at the SCS Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York, by C. L. Williams, S. I. Dronen and J. L. McWilliams.


Lathco is an open-pollinated line (experimental designation NY-1157), tracing back to a field collection in Lewis County, Washington, in 1957. No major selection or breeding was involved in the development of this variety. It is basically a direct increase of material harvested from the initial planting of the field collection at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center. It was tested against five other strains and was superior to all of these in plant vigor, vegetative production, seed production, seedling vigor and rate of spread.

Lathco is a viny, rhizomatous, perennial legume with tendril-bearing stems. It normally forms a dense mat, 2 to 3 feet high, but will climb to 6 feet or more if support is available. It is hardy, drought-tolerant and adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions, and does well on low-fertility sites such as sands, gravels and shales. It is best suited to well drained soils. It will grow on sites that are moderately well drained, but is not adapted to poorly drained soils.


Lathco has been tested as a conservation cover plant on critical areas from West Virginia to Maine. It is suited for use in establishing cover on logging roads, gravel pits, utility rights-of-way, roadbanks, dams, borrow areas, and minespoil. It is a valuable wildlife cover plant and is utilized as food by some wildlife species. The primary use of Lathco will be as a

conservation cover plant. It does have some potential as a forage plant, but has not been tested and is not presently recommended for this purpose.

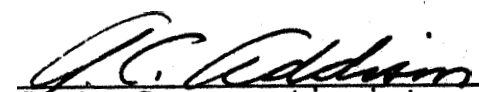
Breeder seed of Lathco will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York. Foundation seed will be available in 1972 and certified seed will be available in 1973.


Director, Plant Sciences Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.


6/12/72
Date


State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania


5-24-72
Date


State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Syracuse, New York

6/2/72
Date


Associate Director
Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

5/30/71
Date


Director
Cornell University
Station
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

6/6/72
Date